Identity verification by mobile operators

*252. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced that identity of mobile users would be verified by mobile operators;

(b) whether the deadline of 31st March, 2007 was fixed in this matter;

(c) whether this deadline has been extended; and

(d) if not, the number of mobile operators who were detected as defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A special drive was conducted in May, 2007 to audit the status of subscriber verification being carried out by the mobile operators on sample basis. As per the reports of the said special drive, some discrepancies in subscriber verification have been noticed in the sample data provided by 26 mobile operators.

Illegal mining of coal

*253. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of people have lost their lives while extracting coal from abandoned coal mines in Jharkhand and other coal mines in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures which have been taken to prevent such illegal mining activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Since law and order is a State subject, coal companies have no data with regard to persons who died in the process of illegal coal mining.

(c) Following measures have been taken to prevent illegal mining:

(i) Rat holes created for the purpose of illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.

(ii) Trenches have been dug to isolate the illegal mining sites.

(iii) Concrete walls are being constructed at the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.

(iv) Fencing of illegal mining sites and displaying of sign boards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place"

(v) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones.

(vi) Erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pithead depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours.

(vii) Sealing of illegal mining spots is resorted to.

(viii) Stringent action is taken against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.

(ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits in security discipline are arranged for strengthening the security set up.

(x) Engaging of lady security guard for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

(xi) Ministry of Coal has been urging from time to time the Coal Producing States to check illegal mining. The State Governments were also advised to consider framing of suitable rules under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation Act, 1957) to strengthen the hands of District Authorities in curbing illegal activities.

(xii) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Coal has been constituted to address the problems of illegal mining of coal.

Pollution in Yamuna

†*254. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Yamuna Development Authority has been set up for cleaning the river Yamuna, wherein all those bodies and people have been included who are associated with its cleaning work in one way or the other;

(b) if so, the reasons for not achieving success in the implementation of the schemes meant for cleaning the river Yamuna so far;

(c) whether any action plan has been drawn after detailed study of the increasing pollution in river Yamuna; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Central Government has decided to constitute a High Powered Committee for Yamuna River Development.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.